

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

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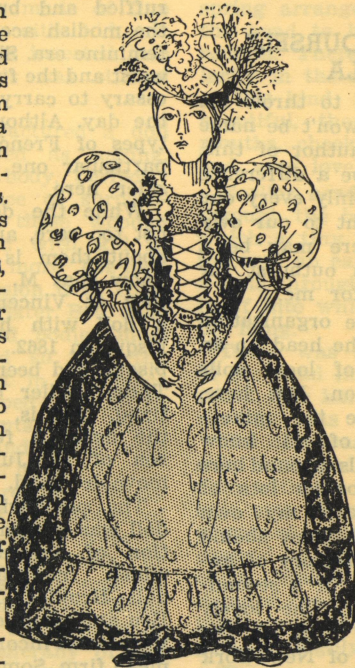
AS SWISS AS A YODEL

Americans have always felt a sense of kinship with the Swiss. Perhaps it is because of Switzerland's long history of democracy, predating our own by centuries, or the courage with which they have faced adversity and in recent years maintained a firm neutrality in a world filled with military clichés, alliances and enemies. American tourists are delighted with the friendliness, neatness and honesty they encounter when visiting this tiny nation, a welcome change from the "Yankee, go home" attitude in some other countries. Swiss craftsmanship, precision and durability have distinguished their products from famous watches to delightful dolls.

For years, Kimport has been extolling the virtues of Swiss wooden carved dolls—and rightfully so. Eleven inch Trudy of Lucerne has been a collector's favorite almost since Kimport's beginning, some 25 years ago. In her old world costume, including prim broad brimmed straw bonnet and completely

articulated joints, she is still available, No. 1054, \$14.95.

For those of you who prefer your dolls in a smaller shelf size, without sacrificing either workmanship or detail, we are delighted to offer for the first time an 8½" adult from Appenzell, here pictured. With the same cunningly jointed all wood body and artistically carved head with features so lifelike and appealing, she is dressed in traditional Appenzell festive attire. Lacy butterfly wing headdress, laced bodice with silver chain, full skirt with contrasting apron, all are combined in this most colorful costume of all Switzerland's 22 cantons or districts. An unusual foreign doll treasure, No. 1055, \$12.50.



In competition with moderate price lines the same reliable Swiss firm offers a lovely 10" doll in assorted canton costumes. These are, No. 1054C, of lovely flesh tinted celluloid which has a distinctively different waxen finish, \$8.75. In even smaller six inch size, we have a

pert little Swiss miss with composition face, well modeled and painted. She comes in three different costumes, those of Berne, Appenzell and Valais, each No. 1053C and bargain priced at just \$3.75. No matter which one or ones you decide to add to your collection we know you will be pleased.

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, PRISCILLA

Far be it from us to throw fat into the fire, so we won't be name droppers as to the author of this, either. There could be a difference of opinion, and certainly every one of us has divine right to our own preferences. But there may be a chuckle in Mrs. A's outburst for you, as there was for me.

It seems that some organization had suggested that she head up an important showing of local dolls as business promotion. But here, Elsa Smaxwell, take the mike—sound off:—"First off, I know where most of the dolls around here are and I could borrow lots of them. Second, I have my own ideas of how a DOLL show should be run. NOT as a directory of ancestors of the owners or a second-hand clothes display. The lovely dolls in such places even as the Museum of the City of New York brag—'old doll, donated by Miss Got Rocks of Huntington Hills, N.Y., brought over on the Mayflower by her direct ancestor, Miss Hettie McGoo of Black Backwash, England.' Isn't that a great way to exhibit a fine old parian or papier-mache or china?"

FRENCH DOLLS

The Golden Age of the doll was between 1860 and 1890. This period is epitomized in my mind by the dainty little morsel which we call "The French Dolls." This term brings us a mental picture of the exquisite lady doll with her elaborately coiffeured blonde hair; with her beautiful silk gown much beruffled and bustled and with all the modish accessories of her very feminine era. She has the tiny wasp waist and the full hips and bust necessary to carry off the fashions of the day. Although there are other types of French dolls, this is the particular one which we will consider here.

While the dolls themselves are not too rare, authentic information about them is not abundant. We know that M. Jumeau in his factory at Vincennes began making a doll with head of all French bisque in 1862. Up to that time the bisque had been made in Germany. These earlier dolls had the head fixed, that is, it did not move at the neck. A few years later, the son of M. Jumeau invented the movable head.

The popularity of this type of doll was responsible for the formation of several other companies which manufactured a similar doll—Bruillet, Belton, and Anton Bru among others, several of which were later incorporated into the Jumeau firm. Some of these companies imported heads from England, eyes from Germany, and assembled and dressed the dolls in France. Some made their own moulds, sent them to Germany to have the heads made there as the German bisque was cheaper than the French. We know that many of these "French"

dolls were entirely made in Germany for the French trade. Some of the dolls' fingers are sewed around a tiny cylinder of paper to give them firmness. I have unrolled a finger from several dolls. Invariably, the paper has been a fragment of a German magazine.

The Jumeau doll was the superior in material and workmanship. The body was made of fine linen and covered with kid. A skeleton of wire was inserted into the covering and it was stuffed with sawdust.

Anton Bru manufactured a doll which was described as having, "a lifelike wooden body, perfectly articulated, with face of surpassing beauty." Later these wooden bodies were covered with kid to render them even more life-like. Rather, their expression is of complete stupidity. The later Bru dolls were made with kid bodies most ingeniously designed so that the entire body was cut in one piece from fine kid, shaped and fitted at waistline and joints by a series of darts. The feet and hands were usually of wood or bisque.

There is an interesting variety in the fashioning of the bodies of these French ladies. They were of pink or white kid, or cloth, or wood with tiny waistlines, and exaggerated hips and shoulders. Arms and hands were of kid, bisque or wood. Feet were generally of the body material but sometimes they matched the hands if those were of bisque or wood. The cloth bodies are thought to be among the earlier types. These usually were not home-made, but commercially made bodies with good white kid arms and hands, with fingers stitched separately and stiffened

with either reeds, wire or paper cylinders.

The head and bust were made of the finest bisque, delicate and skin-like in texture, beautifully tinted and well modeled. Earlier heads were cast all in one piece, later ones had the head and bust modeled separately and fastened together by a metal disc and spring arrangement which enabled the head to be turned in any direction. There is a certain similarity in the faces of all the dolls of this kind; they were all ideally beautiful, they had tiny rosebud mouths, cheeks a trifle too puffy, and very lovely eyes.

Earlier heads had a hole drilled through the head at each ear into which a tiny wire loop was fitted to carry an earring. Later ones had a hole through the lobe of the ear itself into which the earring could be hung.

There was a cavity in the top of the head into which a cork was fitted. The hair, mounted on a fabric cap, was tacked to this cork.

The hair was made from mohair, silk, real hair, or Angora goat-skin with its long wavy hair. The hair was almost invariably blonde, abundant, and capable of being dressed in the fashion of the day in curls, braids, fringes and puffs. Some of the wigs of these dolls were intricate creations from the fingers of highly skilled wigmakers.

The eyes were real works of art. The blown-glass ones were most frequently made in Germany where they had to be made in dark cellars into which a single beam of light was allowed to enter. In France some beautiful and life-like eyes were made of enamels and supplanted to a great extent

the blown-glass variety. Among these dolls we may find grey, light and dark blue, violet and brown eyes. Each eye was put into place with a bit of beeswax, and then Plaster of Paris was run in to hold them more firmly. One of the distinguishing features of the Jumeau dolls was the size of the eyes. They were much over-sized, but give a soulful expression to the face.

The costumes were very elaborate and give a quite complete history of the fashions of the day. A doll with three complete costumes was said to have a "Layette." Six changes of costumes was called a "Trousseau." Each layette and trousseau contained every article of clothing and every accessory for which a lady of fashion could possibly find a use.

The outfitting of these dolls was a business of major importance in Paris. There was a street called "La Rue De La Poupee," every establishment of which was engaged in some form of manufacture devoted to dolls. There were doll wigmakers; doll hatters; doll jewelers; flowermakers, dress-makers, fanmakers; lacemakers made fine wedding veils; weavers made special designs in silk, muslin and shawls for dolls. The jewelers made gold jewelry set with fine precious stones for these miniature ladies.

In 1876 a good many of these dolls were brought to Philadelphia to the Centennial Exposition. I think they must have been rather new to this country, as I have heard them called "Centennial Dolls," which, I think, indicates that up to that time they had not been well known.

Unlike the earlier dolls of fashion, these were made as real playthings for children—Playthings-Very-DeLuxe, many of them! Some of them now bear the marks of loving treatment (and some not so loving) at the hands of small owners. But the condition of a good many would indicate that the doll was accorded the reverence due to the Royalty of Doll-dom. Merely being allowed to peep at the darling safe in her box was the extent to which she could be enjoyed by the little girl. Her silken gowns were entrancing, her hats enchanting, her trinkets might be lifted carefully for the wistful admiration of small playmates—but Played With!—Never!

Somehow, I cannot believe that "Bella Donna" would be a very comforting companion when the mumps were painful, or the spanking had been severe! I cannot picture tears being dried on Esmeralda's fine silk gown. She would scarcely have invited whispered little confidences. The lovely and aloof Lady Geraldine could never have shared the sorrows and joys of little-girl-days. All these sweet intimacies were reserved for homely old, beloved old, nose-rubbed-off old Betsey!

(Editor's Note: The above excellent article was misfiled among our papers, and although evidently submitted for publication in **Doll Talk**, the author's name was not found attached. It makes such interesting and valuable reading for all doll collectors that we are publishing it. Will gladly accord full honors for it's authorship if we are ever informed.)



Jan.-Feb. 1960

Balkan dolls with their fascinating costumes hinting at many and diverse cultures have been mighty scarce and hard to come by for years. First, World War II and then the Iron Curtain have prevented free trade with such nations as Bulgaria, Albania and Roumania. Thus it is lead story news when Kimport can unveil a new line of Roumanian peasant dolls for your selection.

Imported direct from Bucharest, these are large, sturdy 12 inch dolls with neat cloth bodies and smiling composition faces. Our first choice of the dozen or more samples submitted, was the sweet country lass from Vlaska. Her costume of white blouse, literally encrusted with embroidered braid and sequins, split overskirt of black, revealing red paneled apron and white underskirt; her brown leather shoes and wide, multi-colored sash seemed to be the richest and most Roumanian looking of them all. She is No. 869B, \$8.50. Then our problem was that she seemed to have no matching boy friend and many of you do like your dolls in pairs. So, from the Oash district, we selected



a farm lad, No. 869, resplendent in an all white suit with fringe edged cuffs and sleeves. Color aplenty is added by rows of red and yellow trim, not to mention embroidered shoulder designs and a funny cloth pouch with rich hued braid straps that hangs suspended from his neck. Pointed leather shoes and a straw hat with green ribbon complete his ensemble. Matching girl, No. 869A, also shows a rainbow of colors in her handworked bodice and collar, lace edged apron and trim long skirt. Her braided dark hair is capped with a Balkan looking red scarf with print design. This matching pair is also priced at \$8.50 each, and even the entire trio of these hard to get dolls would not be too many for a really complete collection.



The district of Silesia in Poland is one with a natural wealth in minerals, where the miners of this area have a special costume, practically a uniform, indisputably their own. Our little Polish miner, a scant 6 inches to the plumed top of his shako style hat, is indeed naty in his blue serge tunic, com-

plete with nineteen bravely spaced silver buttons! No. 903, \$3.25. His 5 inch sweetheart is typically peasant in attire with fancy blouse and bodice, blue skirt, print apron and lacey headscarf, No. 903A, \$3.25. Both are nicely modeled of composition in flesh tint with bendable wire frame, on polished, hardwood bases.



For collectors who prefer their foreign dolls with real character faces, the Lebanese dolls of Baronne Belling are tailor made. Her

8 inch "Hadji Cheikh" or Holy Man, with his wrinkled, bearded face, somber robes, green turban (symbolic of a pilgrimage to Mecca) and prayer beads is a masterpiece, No. 284H, \$11.50. The matching mountain woman wears a multi-colored Moslem dress, the costume of Biblical days, in shades of red, green, orange, gold, lavender and aqua. She is No. 284A, \$12.50.

Germany has long been a center of doll and toy making arts and

SHE IS CHOOSY

Along with a sizeable check came this note of explanation from Gertrude Kuetemeier of Indiana:—"Thanks again for your patience. This time I'd been suddenly faced with the necessity of replacing a thirty-year-old hot water system! While I'm a devotee of antiques and use some of mine every day, there were no regrets in ousting that antique heating system!"



our trio of fine celluloid German children are a credit to that tradition. Chubby cheeked and cute as can be are "Jorg," No. 616, in long black coat with red lapels and brass buttons, also a flat, broad brimmed black felt hat, "Barbel," No. 616A, his smiling sweetheart, also in

Black Forest costume including brocaded blouse, black felt skirt with red trim, matching apron and most distinctive of all, the straw bonnet with seven red puff pompons; Erika, No. 616B, the Hessian girl, has dark bodice and skirt, white apron and blouse trimmed in

lace, a brass studded red vest and tiny pill box hat. All are in ideal 7½" size, have black shoes and knee length knit stockings. Priced individually at \$4.50 each.



Tiny Portugal provides us with 6½" "Nine" of Minho, a country girl from the mountainous north of this peaceful land. Made of heavy composition and celluloid, she has a swivel neck and jointed limbs, brightly costumed in figured shawl, brown and yellow skirt, pink apron and white blouse. Her red dotted head scarf has a padded cloth ring to help support the loads of produce that she carries to market, balanced on her head. Blue eyed and brown haired, she is "Nine," No. 1005, \$3.75.

MUSKETS SCORE A BULLSEYE!

The Hatfields and McCoys have been out "gunnin'" again. These realistic cornhusk figures made their most recent appearance in Kimport's **Toy Trader** ad and Mrs. George L. Anderson of Texas sent her two dollars for two Kentucky mountaineers and wrote:—

"I have been wanting a couple of these cornhusk dolls for some time. It's a strange thing, but the dolls made from the different materials draw more attention than the lovely old dolls, especially with the younger set and menfolks."

Mrs. Anderson runs a Doll Museum at McAllen, Texas, so has an unusual opportunity to watch reaction of the visitors.

CAN'T HURT A "CHASE"

The "Chase" babies of generations ago were made to endure the rough caresses of little children, as well as the scientific routine of nurse schools. So we were not surprised at the experience of Mrs. Mark H. Burche's doll in a recent accident.

"I am back home after a slippery trip. We hit an ice pocket, went 'fishtailing' around, ending up slamming into a guard rail and being hit broadside by an approaching car. I was glad no one was hurt. My little 'Chase' baby was tucked in the trunk and of course I couldn't have had a better type doll with me—he didn't mind one bit. He's safely home and has had his face and hands washed and his clothes laundered, so he's fresh for Christmas."



My, oh my, oh my! Such a lot of interesting data and questions and orders, and wants-to-file piled in after our last D.T. "Antiques" that we are going ahead with another group of those most wanted French Dolls. You may be assured that some of these are also really rare opportunity buys. Where to begin??

Well, a most beautiful 24 inch tall, French child shall lead them. Her 5 inch bisque head is incised FG in scroll-like frame at the back of her neck; pierced ears are applied, exquisite modeling of the pert nose and full rounded, but closed lips above her dimpled chin. Original blond curls are in excellent condition with a frame of long, curly bangs clear across her brow. Enormous, smoke-blue eyes, fringed with black painted lashes all around, are blown to round 'way out. With a magnifying glass, I counted ten hair-line brush strokes above each brown brow, which has also a painted shadow underneath. Old pink glass earrings, and now to the stockinette covered body below her composition shoulders. This is from the workshop of E. Gesland; in checking over this little beauty, was found in her head, the folded, yellowed ad from this firm, founded 1860, listing three columns of priced bodies, clothing, etc. Gesland bodies are softly life-like but firmly jointed at shoulders, hips and knees. One such, but on an adult doll, is in St. George's Dolls of Yesterday, the

center panel on the third page following page 140. Our doll wears her original, long waisted store frock; we only added long white covering sleeves as the old cloth body is gray with age. Circa 1898, No. A335, with her document, of course, \$225.00.

The next "Unusual" is an 18 inch French girl with big brown (blown) eyes, pierced ears, closed mouth and pleasant expression, almost smiling. Now bodies made by the French house of Roulett and De Camp were used with heads both French (like Jumeau) and German bisque (like Simon Halbig). But this doll's 4 inch bisque swivel head is incised "RD." Nice old brown wig; jointed body in good condition; darling red wool frock, shirred, feather-stitched and insertion trimmed, is doubtless original. We did add new shoes and red bead earrings. Mlle. R. De-Camps is No. A278, \$130.00

Collector bisque child No. 3 is another all original French beauty, 25 inches tall and chubby. Her huge, blown eyes are deep blue, closed lips and pierced ears, which are finely modeled, thin ones, applied, of course. Her long blond real hair is fitted over a cork cap. Body is taut but does show evidence of having been played with, but two voice strings still give forth with a one and a two syllable word. Her pretty blue frock with pleats, crinoline lining, cream lace et al, is in splendid condition, so are "E.J." marked kid slippers with tie straps and pompons, and the cutest patterned panties that fold over to tie in back—one can easily see why this doll Parisien was be-

loved! And now for her markings—incised A 17 over Paris, underneath which, fired in red letters, is "Le Parisien." In the registry of French trademarks assembled by Luella Hart, this name was assigned patent rights to doll maker, M. Lafosse of County Seine, near Paris. Big little girl, No. A330, \$175.00.

One more, who came directly from Paris, is a 21 inch blond beauty, with identical characteristics of these other contemporary dolls. Same enormous, blue, blown eyes, pierced ears, closed rosebud lips and sharply modeled nostrils. Wig over cork, and jointed body are in quite good condition; clad only in old, long waisted pettisplice and new panties. Her incised marking is, "B F." with "9" for size. There was a French firm, Fleishman et Blodell, but we are not positive this doll is theirs. No. A336, \$130.00.

Prized by collectors of French dolls with various markings is, "Eden Bebe." We had a darling one pictured in that August 1957 *Spinning Wheel*; therein was recorded also the 1890 trademark as granted to Fleishman & Blodell Co., Toymakers, Paris. The jointed body on ours here offered is unusual, too, being tightly strung with finely coiled wire. She is 25 inches tall, a little girl, with enormous, dark brown eyes of the outstanding glass type; brown curled wig and seemingly all original clothes, except the shoes which are new. There is a blue bonnet which matches the dress material—very pretty; swivel wrists, pierced ears, parted lips. No. A285, \$150.00.

To go with this issue's Primer Page, at least two of those pre-

cious Steiners must come next. We offer one 18 inch key-wind child with that cute, alert looking face the Steiners have, and yes, a double row of teeth, ever so tiny, between her parted lips; old earrings in the pierced ears. She is a ball head with rather unkempt looking, original, human hair wig in long brown curls down the back. All clothes are original—white leather strap slippers with French markings on the soles. Marking on the doll itself is at the back, sort of above the mechanical box section—"Le Petite Parisienne, Bebe Steiner, Medaille d'Or, Paris, 1900." Her eyes are gray-blue, same as her silk rep frock. The key-wind is in good condition, although when we had her dress off to check every little thing, we found that she does move more freely, in the left arm especially, without the sleeve on it. Undressed, this little arm lifted clear to her head and the voice box definitely sounded like it was saying, "hello." The old dress is so becoming though, that we put it back on. A fascinating doll and a good buy, No. A302, at \$185.00.

And then, the prettiest, large (22 inches) Steiner child whose only mechanism used to be a voice box—no pull strings now, but four round brass grills in the back shoulders and the kid band around her body to cover the original area for workings inside of her. Cork top under straight, blond, real hair; original garnet glass discs on wires through her intricately modeled ears, and then those teeth—I count eight each of tiny uppers and lowers! Only clothing is her Paris marked bronze leather slippers,

with big rosettes, and hand-crocheted lace socks. Marking on her head is "Figure B-4. J. Steiner Bte, S.G.D.G., Paris." On the body, left hip, "Le Petit Parisienne—Bebe Steiner." On page 145 of Mrs. Johl's **Still More About Dolls**, these identical markings (except size 2) are recorded on a doll belonging to Irma Helsing. You could not help loving this one, even without clothes. **No. A323, \$150.00.**

All of these different, but oh-so-French, have been proudly presented, but now for a few best known Jumeaus, both children and ladies of Fashion.

Two Jumeau girls are of quite large, identical size, 24 inches; their beautiful bisque heads with the red "Tete Jumeau" markings are so plump and lifelike; closed, rosebud lips, pierced ears, nice original wigs over cork cap, both perfect; jointed bodies in excellent condition and they also are both marked Jumeau. "Fantig" we named the blue eyed one; "Franseza," the brunette.

Fantig's blown glass eyes, deeply rounded, are fringed all around by finely painted lashes under golden brown, feather stroked brows. Her wig of the same rich hue has bang curls and the other, round curls are confined in a net. Dressed in a sweet old white frock of sheerest nainsook; old pale blue satin slippers over silk knitted socks. **No. A332, \$185.00.**

Franseza's enormous eyes are the same size and quality and although they are dark brown, one can look through them from side to side. Wig is copper brown. Her French styled pink frock of mer-

cerized cotton rep, undoubtedly original, is in excellent condition; pink leather slippers, dark red socks and tamoshanter. **No. A305, \$185.00.**

The two French Fashions or Dressmaker ladies selected to offer cannot share one general paragraph. Little Miss F.G. (came to us thus listed) is 13½ inch size; her kid leather body is tiny around the waist, the sort made with leather gussets at elbow, knee, and thigh, leather hands with wired fingers, all intact but soiled. A ruffle is arranged to fall from the wrists of her dainty white embroidered mull gown, truly most elaborate and becoming. There is a precious skimmer shaped hat of white silk decked with many lilies of the valley. This becoming chapeau, the matching earrings and necklace with stone set cross which she came wearing and her chemise are the only things authentically as old as the doll, about 75 years. Blond hair done lady style, is real; bright blue eyes definitely blown. **No. A339, \$140.00.**

Unusually large, 22 inch Lady of Fashion, is next, and such a beauty with long, almond shaped blue eyes and pale, petal-pink complexion. She also has swivel neck on deep bisque shoulders as did the little lady just above; bead earrings in her long, shapely ears, closed lips and brown hair, turned up, and with bangs across her brow. Kid body is made like **No. A339**, above. Her costume in pure silk, pinstripe beige on cream, was copied from a worn and soiled original. Both skirt with a train and finger tip length fitted jacket

are bustly and full to the back, while the front of her skirt has five double rows of hand-run shirring from hem to waist line. Her hat and muff do seem old though, and oh so chic, in black with copper color ostrich trim! A real "show" doll for size and that indisputable native French charm. No. A322, \$185.00.

And now, this time we will not here add the easy affordables, since close-out sheets are along to list those January clearance things. But truly, it is wise to consider those whose quality you will appreciate, whose value is intrinsic and whose price may well be forgotten after the final check is sent.

SENTIMENTAL AND PROUD OF IT!

The McKim family often reassure each other that Kimport is not alone a business, but is also our way of life. Folks do not have to collect dolls—or anything—but if they do, its for the sheer enjoyment of it, and friendship is its most important quality. That we have seen demonstrated countless times, and Christmas with its beautiful cards and cordial notes emphasizes the goodwill that we and our collector friends bear each other.

The Kimport card last year and this, continue the Junior chapter of the McKim family story. The response is typified by a greeting from Evelyn Ballard of Virginia, who addresses "The McKims en masse" and George J." She included a little Metcalfe poem where he starts out: "Friendship is a precious thing." Indeed it is, and we hope to share yours all of 1960!

HEIRLOOMS PREFERRED

Mrs. William Walker who seems pleased to note that she herself dates back into the 1870's, did the most neighborly thing last month. She mailed to us her priceless old doll album—I wouldn't think of calling it a "scrap book!" There is corroborative text accompanying each picture—or portrait, more bits of information to glean for our own doll study files, and—bless her wise heart—a question or two wherein she asks for our opinions.

The reason that the sixty dolls, now owned by Emma Nevin Walker, form such a unique collection is the lifetimes of family and friendly ties which attach to almost every doll. On the three back pages of her fifty page album, are pasted a quite exhaustive and color illustrated story, "Doll Selector," from a magazine section of a Louisville Courier Journal.

Undoubtedly the reason why Mrs. Walker's collection is outstandingly different is, that through her many years of collecting, she has kept and cherished the dolls, both ordinary and outstanding antiques, that tie in with her own past and its memories. Knowing of this regard and appreciation, many old family dolls were given to Miss Emma. When the collection threatened to become too large or too heterogeneous, groups or singles were given away again to lucky folk, and to institutions where they were indeed welcome. Why not?

Another reason why one might wish to really become acquainted with the Walker dolls is the data of details and chronology which surrounds them. There are even

DOLL TALK

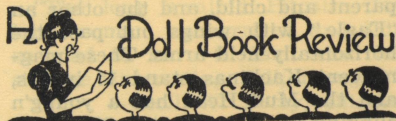
Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

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MAGIC KACHINAS

"How to Carve and Paint Hopi Indian Spirit Images" is a 20 page, 8½ x 11 inch booklet by Joseph D. and Ruth L. Meyers.

Now, for the first time, the art of making a Kachina spirit image has been fully described. This booklet contains complete instructions, drawings of authentic costume patterns, and descriptions and photos of six of the more colorful Kachina figures. As background material, a map of the Indian Southwest and the story of the Hopi Indian Kachinas are included. This is a well illustrated, informative booklet about Kachinas, the only one of its type. Priced **\$1.10 postpaid.**

Associated with the dances and rituals of the Kachina cult is the Hopi practice of making small, carved and painted, wooden images of the Kachina beings. These wooden Kachina figures are much sought after by collectors because they represent one of the most original and striking forms of native American art.

On buying trips through Arizona, Kimport has been fortunate occasionally, to find genuine old Kachinas that have been used in tribal ceremonials and later were obtained by Indian traders. Two now on hand are gorgeous—truly artistic creations, by a Hopi artist whose carving and coloring rate "the best." One is a "Mud Head"

yellowed clippings—a funeral notation, birth dates, and other significant magazine or newspaper findings. In Mrs. Walker's letter which accompanied her book loan, she wrote:

"When in doubt, I go over to the old cemetery and they give me the lot numbers so I can get true information. In years gone back, they put this on the head stones and you know just the age of the people who had the doll. My first doll was a china, given when I was two days old. It was put away for me and dressed for me on my sixth Christmas. In between, I had patent headed dolls and rag dolls."

CORRECTIONS WELCOME

In the Sept.-Oct. 1959 **Doll Talk**, we mentioned a trademark, spelling it "Schultz-Marke." We had quoted this from **More About Dolls**, page 282. A kind note from Mrs. Hennie J. Schallis corrects the spelling to read—"Schutz-Marke." So you see an extra letter can make an "L" of a difference! Forgive the error, and the pun, please.

parent and child, and the other an "Eagle," with wings out past the horizontally held arms. These magnificent Kachinas stand 15 inches, and the Mud Head has a young'n clinging to its back. It is No. 719K, \$55.00. Beaked Eagle Dancer with 21 inch wing spread is beautifully painted in the full range of Indian colors. No. 719KX, \$50.00. These are really heirloom figures!

The late D'arcy was an authority on all wooden dolls, so Kachinas were included in her own collection. Two of these came to Kimport and many would have a sentimental interest in dolls she personally selected. There is an 11 inch figure from the Yei-Be-Chai tribe, interestingly carved and painted in weather symbols. No. XX21, \$15.00. A 3 inch Kachina, painted black, blue, yellow, red and white, with feather topknot, is No. 70, only \$2.60.

Later Bulletin: Kimport again has in stock the beautiful book by Harold S. Colton called "Hopi Kachina Dolls, With a Key to Their Identification." This is a bound book 7x10½ inches in size, and 150 pages telling the entire story of Kachina dolls with many photos on enamel finish paper and scores of pen sketches identifying 266 varieties of dolls. This is a delightful book to browse through and a most valuable source of reference. It is amazing to see the variety of designs worked out by the Indians in their age old desire to give form to their tribal beliefs and religious images. Each is explained in the detailed text and pictures. Price, postpaid, \$8.00.

EXPENSIVE BUT EXPANSIVE

Louise Leonberger is an enthusiastic National "Old Lacer" as well as an indefatigable worker for Federated Clubs—this we knew. But in a recent letter she divulged that they would get to make the Bower Museum Lace exhibit enroute to the All Pet Show in Los Angeles. "We may enter our cockatiel, and the African peach face love bird. I take Peachie shopping in a plastic bird cage. One youngster said to her mother, 'Look, she has a bird in her handbag'.

"It was July of 1947 that I started collecting dolls, not because of an interest in them, so much, but because I admired the costumes worn by the Portrait dolls put out by Madame Alexander. Little did I dream then of where it would lead nor how one hobby would lead to another and another! All my hobbies have brought me much joy through sharing them."

SOME ARE CHOSEN

Catherine Demaree found dolls, even at the Giant Texas Fair in Dallas last Fall. She mentioned Japanese things from the City of Nikko as most impressive—"especially interesting too, are German dolls imported by Schmetsger. But the little German dolls for sale at the fair were dime store variety.

"Israeli had on display the Exodus doll group and a few other fine dolls. The British historical dolls are beautiful, but completely absent were their island and Canadian types. I guess it just takes Kimport to ferret these out!"

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"The little flags I identified by purchasing a 50 cent Golden Book (obtainable on news stands and magazine shops) and therefore know just which is which. I put them with the corresponding dolls that I have and it certainly makes a very nice addition. Should think you would just sell loads of them for this purpose."

—Doris King, Calif.

"I'm a children's librarian, and this Christmas I took several of my small foreign dolls and made a procession of children of other lands going to see the Baby Jesus—under our Christmas tree."

—Virginia Hatch, Conn.

"Our Pitcairn Island lady was guest at a Blue Bird meeting; the girls were intrigued with her story, but all wanted to paint her. NEVER!"

—Alma L. Wolfe, Maryland

"It seems as hard for me to decide on one doll as it did to select the candies I wanted when I was a child. I love them all!"

—Grace C. Taylor, Ind.

"I'm going to frame a set of the bridal notepaper for my bedroom walls, and give the other five sets as gifts." —Marcia Duggins, Fla.

"That little doll I am ordering sounds just like one I bought at Kress' for ten cents—but that was fifty years ago!"

—Grace Taylor, Texas

"The long awaited Pitcairn Island woman just arrived and I'm so glad to have it. Isn't she the strange, interesting doll, though?"

—Cecil W. Perry, Illinois

"Thanks for introducing us to Freckles whom I call Penny. I think I'll knit her a sweater and pleat a skirt."

—Martha Cramer, Ohio

"Wish I could have been with you at Convention, but had to settle for our first Regional Convention here at Santa Ana last month. It was quite a success and greatly enjoyed. I have handled the Doll Section for the California Hobby Show for the past nine years."

—Christie B. Meadows, Calif.

"The Pakistan woman was so very well made that I would like to order the other doll done by the same people—No. 675, a Pathan woman of Afghanistan."

—Barbara Marlatt, N.Y.

"We hope this move will be our last one! However, my husband and two boys have been so sweetly indulgent about Mamma having her dolls unpacked and with her, even when we left dishes and kitchen things in storage, "making do" with little furnished apartments, until the house is ready."

—Carlotta Best, Colo.

"I wish our dolls would entertain! I bought them a fancy tablecloth for a tea party yesterday at a white elephant sale."

—Vivian Raspberry, Kansas

DOLL PRIMER: STEINER, A CONTEMPORARY OF JUMEAU

While the names Bru and Jumeau dominated the Paris scene during the Golden Age of Dolls, 1860-1890, there were other French makers of importance, and of course the Germans, centering around Sonnenburg, were industrious, resourceful competitors. Jules-Nicolas Steiner, a Paris doll manufacturer, registered his trademark in the French government office in 1889. This was a mark or label to be affixed to dolls, and bears a picture of a doll with hair in bangs and long curls, holding a furled banner on which were printed: "Le Petit Parisien, Bebe Steiner."

Not all Steiner heads are marked, and those incised vary in the letters used, but sometimes include "J. Steiner, S.G.D.G. Paris." When there are body markings, they are quite uniform and follow the registered trademark label, or are stamped in ink: "Le Petit Parisien, Bebe Steiner." Some also include "Medaille d'or Paris, 1889." This establishes the location, date and quality of the Steiner doll.

There is an unsolved controversy of course, over the use German-made heads and parts played during the early years of Jumeau and his contemporaries when they were rising to fame. Some claim that even Jumeau, until he set up his own complete factory in 1862, drew on German sources, and that only Bru was all-French from the beginning. Several writers think Steiner had factories in both countries, but the lovely Steiner heads incised "Paris" certainly give a French identification, and the bodies stamped "LePetit Parisien, Medaille d'or Paris, 1889" corroborate the source.

Just to add interest to the search for authenticity, some careful doll sleuths have found the name "Steiner" stamped on the back of the eye-balls. Then another distinguishing mark found on many Steiner heads is the open mouth showing rows of tiny upper and lower teeth! All the Steiners now at Kimport have such dental distinction! It is generally admitted that Steiner rivaled Jumeau in French mechanicals, and they are choice collector items today.

Kimport was almost tripped up recently by a lovely doll marked "Le Parisien." We at first thought it a Steiner, but Luella Hart's list of French trademarks showed a true "Le Parisien" registered by Monsieur Lafosse in County Seine, August 1892. That afforded one more name to add to the distinguished Paris group of doll makers. One more mystery to pose: many Steiners carry the initials on the head: "S.G.D.G." These same four cryptic letters also appear on Brus and Jumeaus. **Doll Talk** would certainly like to publish the correct interpretation and hopes some very determined doll student will have the answer. Have we a Sherlock Holmes in our midst?

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